

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-12, and 14-21 are presently pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8. In addition, claim 1 has been corrected by inserting the word “one” between the words “at least” and “cured resin layer.” This amendment is supported at least by the context of the abstract of the present application, which has language referring to at least one single layer (the phrase “containing *at least* cured resin layer *that has*” contains a conjugation of the infinitive of the verb “to have” in the singular).

Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. Claim 12 has also been amended to clarify that the polyalkylene ether compound *has a number-average molecular weight* of 500 to 10,000. This amendment is supported, for example, by paragraph [0076] of the present application. Claim 13 has been canceled.

Claims 17-21 are new. Claim 17 incorporates the subject matter of claim 1 and canceled allowable claim 4. Claims 18, 19, 20, and 21 incorporate the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 8, and 10, respectively, and are all dependent upon claim 17.

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious spelling error. This amendment is at least supported by the context of the sentence itself.

In a similar manner as claim 1, the abstract has also been corrected by inserting the word “one” between the words “at least” and “cured resin layer.” Again, this amendment is supported by the context of the sentence itself.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants are pleased to note the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 5, 8, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0059708 of Yamamura et al. ("Yamamura"). The Examiner argues that Yamamura discloses a composition comprising a cross-linkable compound that cross-links by irradiation in the presence of a cationic photopolymerization initiator. The Examiner further argues that the composition also comprises elastomer particles having an average particle size of 10-700 nm to provide excellent impact strength and that such particles exist in the amount of 3-30 weight percent of the composition. The Examiner concludes that Yamamura discloses all limitations of claims 1, 2, 6, and 9-15.

While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's arguments, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 8. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 1, as rewritten, is not anticipated by Yamamura. Similarly, claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11, which are all dependent upon claim 1, are also not anticipated by Yamamura. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 12 also has patentability over Yamamura. Claim 12 presently recites a fabricating procedure which is performed by using an actinic radiation-curable resin composition comprising a homogeneous mixture including *a polyalkylene ether compound having a number average molecular weight of 500 to 10,000* as the polymer to become polymeric island components. In contrast, Yamamura neither discloses nor suggests a polyalkylene ether compound having a number average molecular weight of 500 to 10,000 as the polymer to become polymeric island components. The Examiner has indirectly acknowledged this in the Office Action dated June 27, 2006 (Paper No. 20060625), in which the Examiner indicated that

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claim 8 (which similarly recites that the polymer constituting the island components is a polyalkylene ether compound having a number average molecular weight of 500 to 10,000) would be allowable. Thus claim 12 has patentability over Yamamura. Similarly, claims 14 and 15 are not anticipated by Yamamura. Claims 14 and 15, as currently presented, are dependent claims of claim 12. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

It is therefore submitted that all of the claims in the application patentably distinguish over the prior art of record. Reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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(Date)

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Enclosures – Petition for Extension of Time (one month)
Clean copy of Amended Abstract